

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

DATE: May 19, 2001

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: Office of Environmental Policy and Guidance: Boulos: 6-1306

SUBJECT:

Clean Air Act Notice of Acceptability of Safe Substitutes for Ozone-Depleting Substances

TO:

Distribution

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform DOE program offices and field organizations that on May 23, 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a notice of acceptability in the Federal Register (66 FR 28379) on, "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Notice 15 for Significant New Alternatives Policy Program".

Under Section 612 of the Clean Air Act, EPA established the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program. SNAP's mandate is to identify alternatives to ODS and to publish lists of acceptable and unacceptable substitutes. Comprehensive SNAP lists can be obtained through EPA's Stratospheric Ozone Protection Hotline at: 1-800-296-1996. Also a complete chronology of SNAP decisions can be found at: www.epa.gov/ozone/title6/snap/chron.html.

The May 23 notice expands the list of acceptable substitutes for ozone-depleting substances (ODS). New substitutes are identified and discussed for use in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector.

Appendix A of this notice provides a Summary of Acceptable Decisions including: HFC-134a/HBr (92/8), a chemical blend of 92% by weight HFC-134a (1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane) and 8% by weight HBr (hydrogen bromide) is acceptable for use as the primary heat transfer fluid in new secondary-loop equipment for not-in-kind replacements of systems using: CFC-12 and R-502 in retail food refrigeration; and CFC-12 and R-502 in cold storage warehouses. HFC-134a/HBr (92/8) is also acceptable as a substitute in new equipment for: CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-114, CFC-115, and R-502 in industrial process refrigeration; and CFC-12 and R-502 in refrigerated transport.

The contribution of this blend to global warming will be minimized in each end-use through the implementation of the venting prohibition under Section 608(c)(2) of the Clean Air Act (40 CFR Part 82, Subpart F). This section and EPA's implementing regulations prohibit venting or release of substitutes for class I and class II ozone depleting substances used in refrigeration and air-conditioning and require proper handling and disposal of these substances, such as recycling or recovery.

The May 23, 2001 notice is available at
<http://www.eh.doe.gov/oepa/rules/66/66fr28379.pdf> on the Office of
Environmental Policy and Guidance (EH-41) Web site.

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact Mr. Emile Boulos
of my staff at: emile.boulos@eh.doe.gov; 202-586-1306.

(original was signed by a. Wallo)
Andrew Wallo III
Director
Air, Water and Radiation Division